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Letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 19 March and 18 May 2000, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 19 March-18 May 2000

1. *19 March 2000*

The Iranians abducted the Iraqi citizen Ali Suhayl Najm al-Mandawi as he was tending his sheep near Iraq's Mukhtar post. He was seized by armed soldiers and taken inside Iranian territory, where he was interrogated and asked about the locations of Mujahidin-i Khalq bases. They ordered him to cooperate with them, but he refused to do so. A number of photographs of him were taken, including one in which he was holding a portrait of Khomeini. They told him that they would send that photograph to the Iraqi intelligence services, but he persisted in his refusal to cooperate. He was released on 25 March 2000.

2. *24 March 2000*

At 1650 hours a remotely piloted aircraft was shot down south of the Izz river.

3. *13 April 2000*

At 0600 hours an Iranian infiltrator, Bahnam Kudazari, was caught in the 14 July (Karabat) area in Mandali district.

4. *18 April 2000*

At 2000 hours an Iranian group approached the Mimak post at coordinates 8517 (1:100,000 map of Mandali) and fired four RPG-7 rounds before running off.

5. *25 April 2000*

At 1100 hours the Iranians installed a machine-gun opposite the Shahiniyah area at coordinates 3064.

6. *26 April 2000*

At 0930 hours the Iranians manned the forward observation posts in the area between Muhammarah and Abadan, placing three soldiers in each. At 1700 hours the soldiers withdrew.

7. *27 April 2000*

At 1600 hours the crew of the boat *Al-Sharifi* (No. 226/Basrah) were fishing in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway near Mina' al-Amiq, access 7, and had cast their nets. They were intercepted inside our territorial waters by a grey-coloured naval craft flying the Iranian flag with six persons on board, officers and one civilian, armed with PKC-type weapons. They were arrested under threat of armed force. The Iranians ordered the crew to accompany them and to retrieve their nets from the sea, and they confiscated the boat's papers and those of the master, Jamil Marzuq Hassuni. The crew consisted of Yusuf Maqzuq Hassuni, Abd Allah Ali Abd Allah, Mustafa Salim Za'lan, Qasim Abd al-Karim Ahmad, Salih Karim, Haydar Qasim Abd al-Husayn, Imad Majid Abbud, Abd Allah Abd al-Jabbar and Abd al-Husayn Hassuni. The Iranian patrol then went off to search other Iraqi fishing boats in the

area. After gathering in the fishing nets, which took two hours, and darkness having fallen, the boat's crew succeeded in turning round and returning to Faw. The Iranians selected three Iraqi boats, one small and two large, but their numbers and ownership could not be identified because of the distance.

8. *27 April 2000*

Before sunset, while the boat *Al-Afrah* (No. 2045/Basrah) was fishing inside Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway near Mina' al-Amiq, access 7, it was intercepted by an Iranian naval craft with a crew armed with automatic weapons and mounting a DShK machine-gun. They boarded the boat and searched it, and they fired shots in the air in order to intimidate the boat's crew. They gathered them together and singled out the boat's owner, Adil Maris Tahir. They ordered them to board the naval craft and then took the fishing boat in tow and took it and the crew to some unknown destination. It is still not known what became of them.

9. *28 April 2000*

At 1300 hours a group of some 20 armed persons was seen opposite Iraq's Shahabi post.

10. *28 April 2000*

At 1300 hours a blue Chevrolet pick-up truck carrying some 15 armed men was seen heading towards Iran's Jatlukah post.

11. *2 May 2000*

(1) At 1930 hours the Iranians released the soldiers they had abducted on 6 July 1999, namely Safa' Khalaf Khudayr and Iyad Kazim Majid, and returned the body of As'ad Mahdi Jabir, who had been killed during the confrontation.

(2) The above were returned, with a fishing boat and its crew of four, across the Shatt al-Arab from opposite the Wasiliyah area. Three of the fishermen had been abducted on 27 April 2000 and the fourth during the same month.

(3) The two soldiers reported that the Iranians had brought pressure to bear on Safa' Khalaf Khudayr and had questioned him under duress in order to obtain information on our armed forces. Iyad Kazim Majid had not been pressured because of his frail condition.

12. *9 May 2000*

At 0800 hours an Iranian engineering unit that included a bulldozer was seen at coordinates 5832 constructing an earth embankment opposite our units.

13. *9 May 2000*

At 1500 hours a number of Iranian soldiers were seen digging three small slit-trench positions 100 metres apart on the earth embankment opposite the Shahiniyah area at coordinates 308609.

14. *10 May 2000*

At 1900 hours three Land Cruiser vehicles were seen with a Poclain backhoe. Each vehicle was carrying two or three persons, and they alighted at coordinates 9019. The Poclain proceeded to dig in search of bodies they had previously been

prevented from retrieving. It was later apparent that there had been digging over a distance of 50 metres along the earth embankment.

15. *11 May 2000*

At 1900 hours the Iranians resumed digging at coordinates 9019, and work continued until 2000 hours. They then withdrew towards the Iranian rear, leaving the Poclain in the same location.

16. *13 May 2000*

At 2000 hours some Iranian positions opened fire intermittently from the Iranian side opposite the Kasibah area and the Ma`amir and Faw area. Some of the rounds fired reached the Iraqi side of the Shatt al-Arab.

17. *14 May 2000*

From 2100 hours some Iranian positions intermittently strafed the sector on the Iranian side opposite the Dawrah post and the Ma`amir dock. The shooting stopped at 0530 hours on 15 May.

18. *14 May 2000*

At 2300 hours the Iranian side directed intermittent and random light-weapons fire at the reedbed area along the eastern bank of the Shatt al-Arab opposite our units at coordinates 540230. Three rounds impacted in the Ma`amir area at coordinates 537228. The shooting stopped at 0100 hours on 15 May.

19. *18 May 2000*

At 1000 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian rear towards Mehran city at coordinates 0960. It reconnoitred the border strip and then returned towards the Iranian rear, where it continued to hover for a period of 5 to 10 minutes.